

# JTAGS



Members of Charlie Detachment, 1st Space Company undergo combatives training, a vital skill in which every Soldier should receive training. Photos by CPT Johnny Honnaker

## COMBATIVES TRAINING FOR JTAGS-KOREA

By SGT Jeremy Latorre

OSAN AIR BASE, Korea — Proficiency in hand to hand combat is a vital skill that all U.S. Army Soldiers should possess. Recently, members of Charlie Detachment, 1st Space Company, JTAGS-Korea went through both Level I and Level II combatives courses.

SGT John Hardegree, SGT Charles Menard, SPC Brian Fisher and SPC Christopher Pond completed the Level II certification course that was offered through coordination with MSG Xavier Whitehead and SPC Patricia Nicholas from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade. The Detachment has an outstanding relationship with 35th ADA Brigade and the benefit is obvious, as 86 percent of their Soldiers are now Level I certified and 26 percent are Level II certified. While each course was intense and strenuous, the attendees felt the knowledge and confidence they gained would be invaluable to them during their Army careers.

Hardegree said that Level II will help during combat because “I would probably know more than the other person and be able to take control of the situation ... this, along with building the confidence that it takes to defeat an opponent.” These are two very important points of the Army Combatives program; it tries to instill the fighting spirit in Soldiers and to train them so they have other options should they need them in actual combat situations.

Warrant Officer 1 Cleveland Butler, the Level III trainer, oversaw the Level I course in which SSG Baron Godfrey, SGT Jesse Jacka, SGT Jason Whitley, SPC Robert Swain, SPC Jerome Williams and PFC Albert Almas trained hard and earned their

Level I certification. Throughout the course of the week they learned different dominant body positions, defensive postures and submission moves. While difficult at times, the course gives valuable training to these Soldiers that they will use throughout their Army careers. According to Whitley, “It was difficult at times, but well worth it. It was a good break from the normal routine.”

The Level I course concluded with a tournament to determine the class champion. In the first match, Godfrey went wire to wire with Jacka before finally winning on points awarded for achieving various dominant body positions. In the second match, Williams defeated Almas by achieving the rear-mount position and applying a rear naked choke. In the championship match, Godfrey used his strength and newfound techniques to secure a win over Williams using a cross-collar choke.

Modern Army Combatives is an excellent way to build unit cohesion, while at the same time offer training on vital skills that every Soldier requires. Charlie Detachment will continue to incorporate combatives as part of their regular physical fitness program. This will ensure Soldiers stay proficient on what they’ve learned and will allow them to introduce new techniques as well.

35th Air Defense Artillery coordinators Whitehead and Nicholas gave outstanding support and offered their off duty time every week to train Soldiers and Airmen at Osan Air Base in Modern Army Combatives. Their efforts have had a direct impact on the success of Charlie Detachment which hopes to continue this strong relationship for many years to come.